

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SY-05
/059 W

-----081258Z 071403 /44

R 081145Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR, US

SUBJ: OFFICIAL US CONTACTS WITH FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

1. IN A SERVICE FROM ITS PARIS CORRESPONDENT, MILAN DAILY
CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF MARCH 8 REPORTS MEETING BETWEEN TWO
OFFICIALS (ONE OF MIDDLE RANK, THE OTHER OF A LESSER GRADE)
OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT PARIS AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY
(PCF) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF JEAN KANAPA. MEETING IS DESCRIBED
AS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND SINCE MAURICE THOREZ WAS A MINISTER
IN DEGAULLE'S IMMEDIATE POST-WAR GOVERNMENT, AND AS BEING ORGANIZ-
ED AT AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

2. ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE ENCOUNTER AT PCF HEADQUARTERS TOOK
PLACE ABOUT A MONTH AGO, SHORTLY AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE AMERICANS ARE SAID TO HAVE DESCRIBED
THE MEETING AS "ROUTINE" AND ONE WHICH HAD BEEN FACILITATED
BY PREVIOUS CONTACTS AT THE NON-OFFICIAL LEVEL OF THE PCF.
IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TALK WITH KANAPA, THE AMERICANS ARE
ALLEGED TO HAVE TOLD HIM THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD
NOT ACT IN THE SAME WAY AS THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD DONE
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IN THE CASE OF ITALY AND ACCORDINGLY WOULD NOT PRONOUNCE A VETO
OR INTERFERE IN ANY MANNER IN FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICS. FOR HIS
PART, KANAPA IS SAID TO HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IN THE
CASE OF A VICTORY OF THE LEFT IN 1978 THE PCF WOULD NOT CALL
FOR FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

3. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THESE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN US OFFICIALS

AND THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS ARE A NATURAL FOLLOW-ON TO COMMENTS MADE DURING LAST YEAR'S AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. PARTICULARLY CITED IS THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO NSC COUNSELOR BRZEZINSKI TO THE EFFECT THAT BEGIN QUOTE IT IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SPEAKING WITH BREZHNEV AND TO REFUSE ANY CONTACT WITH BERLINGUER. END QUOTE. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT THIS FORMULATION HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE MARCHAIS IN THE PERSON OF KANAPA, WHO IS HIGHER IN RANK, IN TERMS OF HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE PCF POLITBURO, THAN HIS PCI COUNTERPART SEGRE WITH WHOM AMERICANS IN ROME MAINTAIN CONTACT.

4. EQUALLY LENGTHY AND DETAILED ARTICLE ALSO APPEARED IN MARCH 8 EDITION OF LA STAMPA. ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT THAT LA STAMPA MADE WAS THAT AMERICAN SIDE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON FRANCE IN THE EVENT OF A LEFTIST VICTORY IN 1978. LA STAMPA ALSO NOTED THAT A PCF DELEGATION CALLED AT AMERICAN EMBASSY MARCH 7 TO PRESENT ITS VIEWPOINT ON CONCORDE LANDING QUESTION. PCI DAILY L'UNITA OF MARCH 8 PREPARED SUBJECT BRIEFLY, DRAWING UPON RADIO LUXEMBOURG AS SOURCE OF STORY. L'UNITA ADDS THAT RADIO LUXEMBOURG REPORT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY PCF SOURCES. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME03678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-0477
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770382/aaaacues.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 742afebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3176591
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL US CONTACTS WITH FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY
TAGS: PINT, FR, US, PCF, (KANAPA, JEAN)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/742afebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009